

MINNESOTA DAILY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
27 February 1981

By Carla Wheeler

About 25 students chanting "CIA off campus" marched into Morrill Hall Thursday to present University President C. Peter Magrath with a pair of black cardboard sunglasses.

Although the students didn't get to see Magrath, they told James Borgestad, special assistant to the president, that they were giving Magrath the glasses to protest his secret meeting with top Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officials in June 1978. The students also were protesting the presence of a CIA recruiter on campus. The recruiter interviewed students

from the Institute of Technology (IT) on Wednesday and left Thursday.

The black cardboard sunglasses symbolize the secrecy and underhandedness of the CIA, said Milo Banning, a member of the ad hoc committee to get the CIA off campus. Several student protesters also wore the black cardboard sunglasses.

Borgestad met the protesters in a hallway in front of Magrath's office. He thanked the students for the sunglasses and returned to Magrath's locked office. Borgestad said Magrath was not in his office.

The protest started with a noon rally in front of Coffman Union, organized by the ad hoc committee to get the CIA off campus. About 60 students attended the rally.

Protest leaders decried the CIA's alleged intervention in countries such as Iran, Guatemala, Chile, and El Salvador.

The CIA is involved in El Salvador, Banning said at the rally. The United States is sending millions of dollars to the government of El Salvador. This junta and right-wing death squads are responsible for the deaths of 13,000 people last year and the murders of

three American nuns and an archbishop, Banning claimed. "We must join together to stop aid of El Salvador."

The CIA has a long history of activity on college campuses, said one student protester. It interrogates University professors after trips to communist countries, recruits students to spy on other students, funds research programs on campus, and hires graduating students for their organization, the protester said.

Banning said the protesters were especially upset about Magrath's secret meeting with CIA officials. The Uni-

versity shouldn't have any ties with the CIA because of the organization's history of foreign intervention and alleged assassinations of foreign leaders, Banning said.

According to a copyrighted Daily story, Magrath met with CIA officials in Langley, Va., in 1978 primarily out of "curiosity," and has largely forgotten what was discussed.

CIA documents released under the Freedom of Information Act show that the CIA officials met with seven university presidents in March and

June 1978 in an effort to improve relations between the agency and the academic community. Magrath was the only university president who asked that his participation in the meeting remain a secret.

Although Magrath has said he does not remember much of what happened at the meeting, then-CIA Director Admiral Stansfield Turner wrote to Magrath after the meeting and thanked him for "your interest, your understanding, and your probing inquiries . . . I was, of course, especially appreciative of your concrete recommendations on relations between the Agency and the academic community."

The students also protested CIA recruitment of graduating seniors on campus. "They (CIA) also heavily recruit students for, among other things, the technical services and psychological warfare divisions . . ." said a pamphlet that the protesters handed out.

Everyone who works for the CIA is responsible for CIA assassinations and subversive activities in foreign countries, Banning said. "To simply say 'I ran the computer,' " does not mean that the person is not responsible for CIA activities, Banning said.

A CIA recruiter interviewed nine students at the IT placement office, said LeRoy Ponto, director of the office. CIA recruiters come to the IT placement office about once a year, Ponto continued. They usually interview students from the science, math, and physics fields, he said.

The placement office publicizes upcoming interviews by over 350 companies and organizations every year, Ponto said. Students are able to re-

search the groups in an information library in the placement office, he said. There is literature on the CIA in the library, Ponto added.

Ponto said University policy allows bona fide employers to recruit on campus.

"I had heard that CIA recruiters were on campus," Borgestad said. There is no special University policy on CIA recruiting, he said. "Any number of corporations recruit on campus. It's up to individuals to decide who they want to meet with. There is no attempt to encourage or curb students from meeting with recruiters."

Banning said he was happy with the student response at the rally. The general response was "disbelief" that the CIA recruits students on campus, he said.

Banning added that the protesters hoped to educate students about CIA activity on campus. The protesters wanted to "let people know they're around," he said.